

2009 Legislative Session



Human and Community Services Division

Human and Community Services Division Public Assistance Bureau

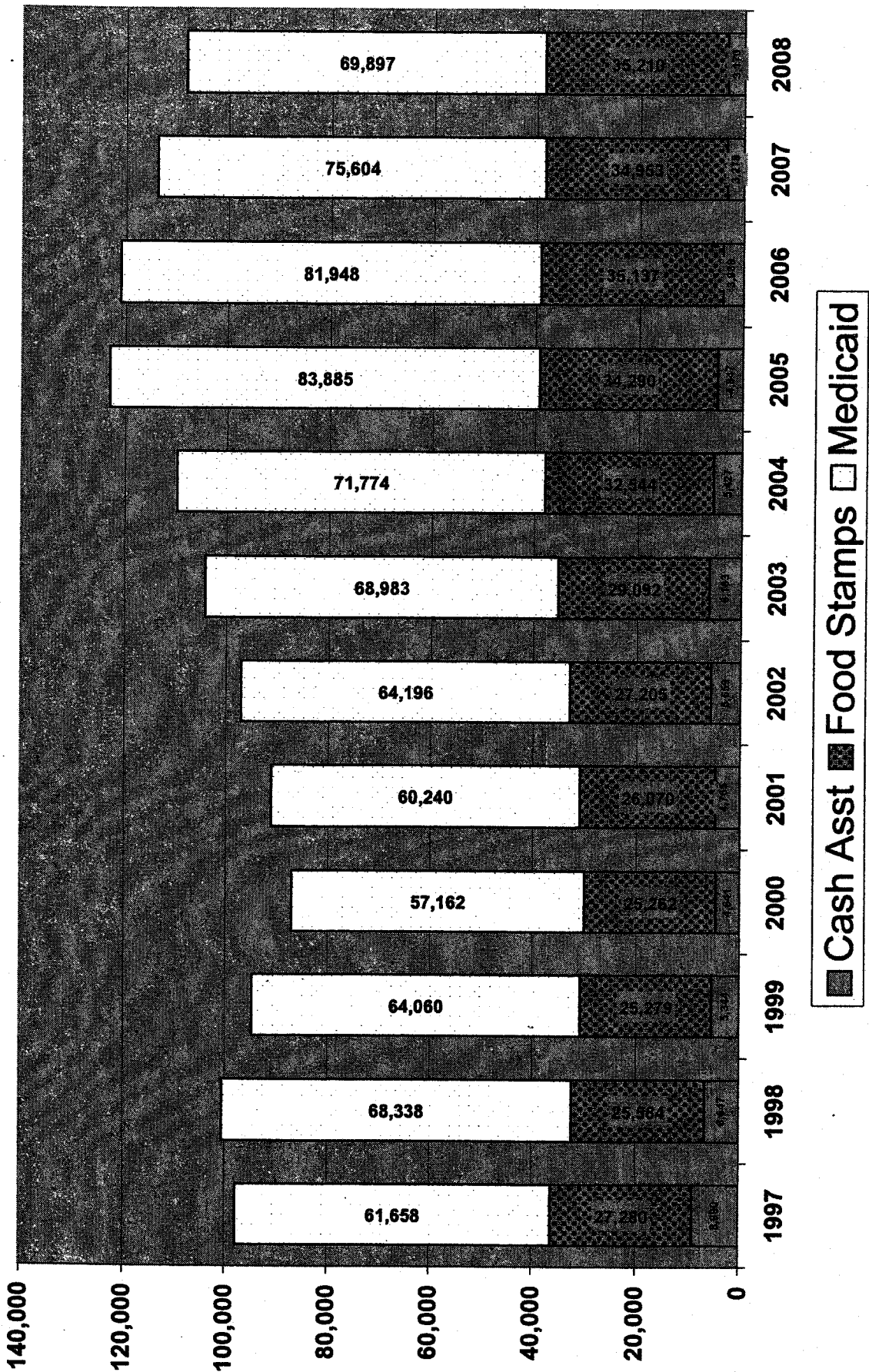
The Public Assistance Bureau centrally administers Montana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the cash assistance program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. The Bureau also provides eligibility services for the Medicaid program. Eligibility determination services for all three programs are provided by field staff statewide in local Office of Public Assistance offices and regularly scheduled outreach to other counties.

In addition, the Bureau contracts for and administers the provision of TANF work participation activities, SNAP employment and training activities, and SNAP nutrition education services.

One Month Snapshots of Eligibility Caseload by County
October 2007 and October 2008

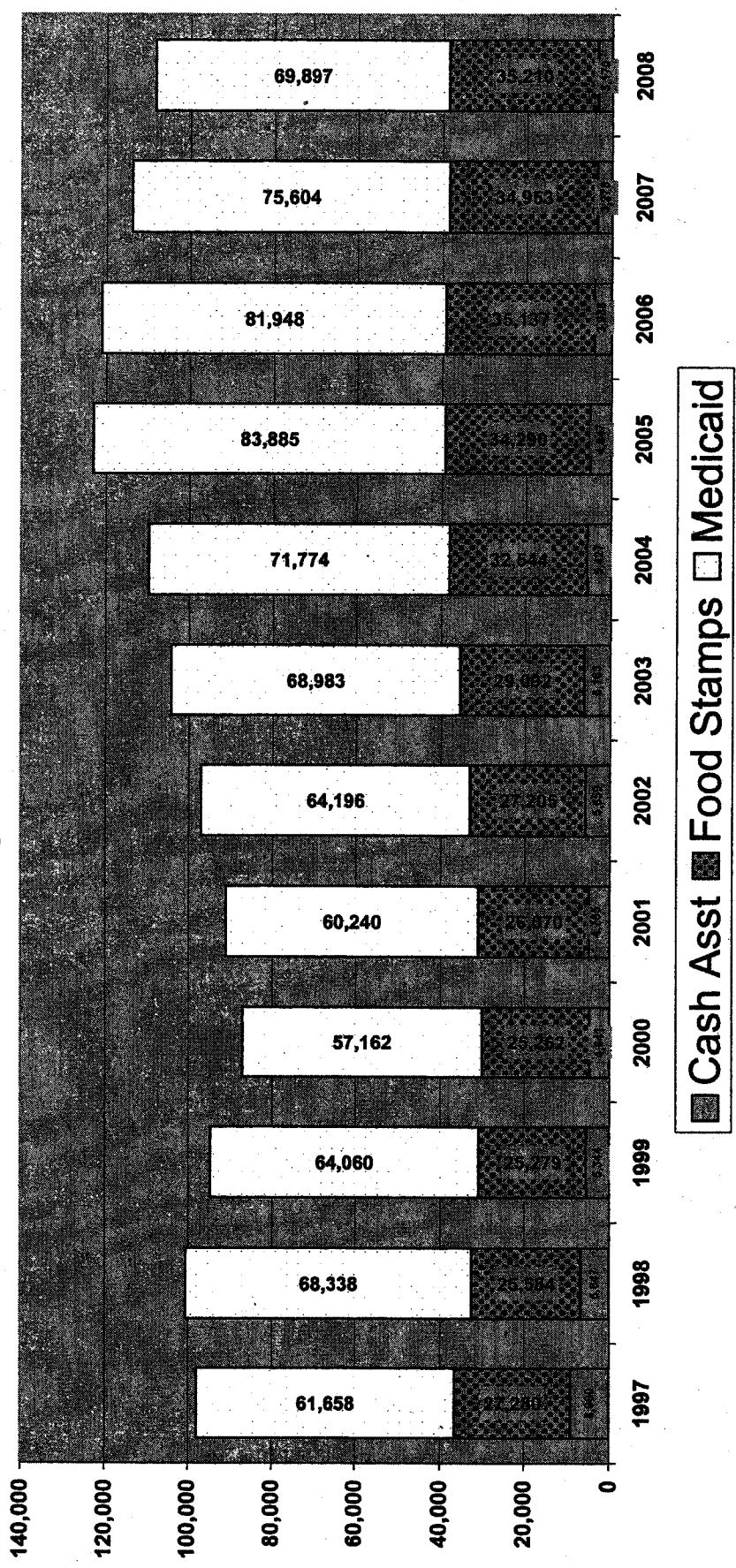
County	SNAP 2007	SNAP 2008	Medicaid 2007	Medicaid 2008	TANF 2007	TANF 2008
BEAVERHEAD	269	259	453	452	24	28
BIGHORN	1,077	1,046	1,356	1,387	351	338
BLAINE	393	455	660	654	6	5
BROADWATER	109	144	201	219	9	10
CARBON	175	170	369	345	7	9
CARTER	7	6	32	25	0	0
CASCADE	3,111	3,159	4,857	5,081	250	268
CHOUTEAU	99	96	184	189	6	4
CUSTER	441	420	838	820	4	10
DANIELS	28	26	78	79	2	1
DAWSON	201	199	388	382	7	11
DEERLODGE	469	447	721	730	29	24
FALLON	35	34	104	113	3	3
FERGUS	260	269	638	618	13	11
FLATHEAD	2,382	2,735	4,380	4,602	120	152
GALLATIN	1,020	1,179	1,991	2,100	67	84
GARFIELD	14	13	44	40	0	1
GLACIER	1,835	1,788	1,704	1,680	284	255
GOLDEN VALLEY	20	23	42	31	1	0
GRANITE	69	74	135	135	2	2
HILL	884	925	1,429	1,474	8	12
JEFFERSON	185	198	422	444	13	13
JUDITH BASIN	28	31	63	67	2	2
LAKE	1,386	1,531	2,242	2,311	71	96
LEWIS & CLARK	1,903	2,008	3,281	3,242	175	181
LIBERTY	22	23	51	47	3	2
LINCOLN	1,120	1,148	1,397	1,390	55	48
MADISON	89	79	176	181	6	5
MCCONE	9	9	47	41	1	1
MEAGHER	54	65	100	108	1	2
MINERAL	309	322	386	374	9	18
MISSOULA	4,290	4,590	5,788	5,939	211	235
MUSSELSHELL	179	184	309	320	12	10
PARK	428	462	661	645	21	20
PETROLEUM	6	3	9	7	0	1
PHILLIPS	149	153	309	340	4	2
PONDERA	292	316	447	458	32	41
POWDER RIVER	12	12	54	49	0	1
POWELL	207	216	340	319	7	9
PRAIRIE	18	21	37	39	0	0
RAVALLI	1,312	1,413	1,953	2,006	59	63
RICHLAND	162	175	403	412	5	4
ROOSEVELT	1,261	1,207	1,388	1,432	417	356
ROSEBUD	629	614	854	829	206	204
SANDERS	459	517	717	745	26	27
SHERIDAN	71	68	158	151	6	9
SILVER BOW	1,669	1,815	2,579	2,632	140	145
STILLWATER	146	148	324	320	10	7
SWEET GRASS	41	39	95	86	1	2
TETON	123	119	226	233	5	6
TOOLE	153	138	255	243	11	16
TREASURE	9	10	14	23	0	1
VALLEY	312	293	476	491	33	25
WHEATLAND	57	57	97	90	1	2
WIBAUX	17	16	45	42	0	0
YELLOWSTONE	4,651	4,854	7,896	8,049	422	481
Total	34,656	36,321	54,203	55,261	3,158	3,263

Average Caseloads



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cash Asst	8,990	6,647	5,344	4,641	4,765	5,659	6,163	5,427	4,847	3,938	3,278	3,170
Food Stamps	27,280	25,584	25,279	25,262	26,070	27,205	29,092	32,544	34,290	35,137	34,953	35,210
Medicaid	61,658	68,338	64,060	57,162	60,240	64,196	68,983	71,774	83,885	81,948	75,604	69,897

Average Caseloads



Cash Asst
 Food Stamps
 Medicaid

FAMILY OF THREE



Projected Payment Level (33% of 2007 Federal Poverty Level)

NO EMPLOYMENT INCOME (Full TANF cash assistance grant \$472/mo)

TANF CASH	FAMILY MEDICAID	SNAP	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$5,664	\$13,344	\$5112	\$13,850	\$149	\$1624 + \$1922	\$204	\$41,869

20 HOUR/WEEK MINIMUM WAGE JOB (\$6.90 / hour) (Partial TANF cash assistance grant \$187/mo)

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	FAMILY MEDICAID	SNAP	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$7,176	\$3,010	\$2,244	\$13,344	\$4788	\$13,850	\$149	\$1447 + \$1922	\$204	\$48,134

FULL-TIME MINIMUM WAGE JOB (\$6.90 / hour) (Not eligible for TANF or Medicaid for parent) With child care assistance

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	CHILDREN'S MEDICAID	SNAP	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$14,352	\$4,824	0	\$8,472	\$3456	\$13,850	0	\$1253+ \$1922	0	\$48,129

FULL-TIME MINIMUM WAGE JOB (\$6.90 / hour) (Not eligible for TANF or Medicaid for parent) No child care assistance

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	CHILDREN'S MEDICAID	SNAP	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$14,352	\$4,824	0	\$8,472	\$5076	0	0	\$1253 + \$1922	0	\$35,899

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT EARNING \$7.50/HR (Not eligible for TANF or Medicaid for parent) With child care assistance

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	CHILDREN'S MEDICAID	SNAP	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$15,600	\$4,764	0	\$8,472	\$3012	\$13,850	0	\$1165+ \$1922	0	\$48,785

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT EARNING \$7.50/HR (Not eligible for TANF or Medicaid for parent) No child care assistance

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	CHILDREN'S MEDICAID	SNAP	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$15,600	\$4,764	0	\$8,472	\$4776	0	0	\$1165+ \$1922	0	\$36,699

100% of the 2007 Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of three is \$17,170

150% is \$25,755

200% is \$34,340

These scenarios are based on a typical family paying \$350/month in rent.

When no child care assistance is received, TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid eligibility determined allowing maximum dependent care disregards.

* To be eligible for telephone assistance the person with the phone in their name must be receiving Medicaid.

FAMILY OF THREE



ected Payment Level (33% of 2009 Federal Poverty Level)

NO EMPLOYMENT INCOME (Full TANF cash assistance grant \$496/mo)

TANF CASH	FAMILY MEDICAID	FOOD STAMPS	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$5,952	\$13,344	\$5556	\$14,858	\$149	\$1624 + \$1922	\$204	\$43609

20 HOUR/WEEK MINIMUM WAGE JOB (\$6.90 / hour) (Partial TANF cash assistance grant \$211/mo)

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	FAMILY MEDICAID	FOOD STAMPS	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$7,176	\$3,010	\$2532	\$13,344	\$5244	\$14,858	\$149	\$1447 + \$1922	\$204	\$49886

FULL-TIME MINIMUM WAGE JOB (\$6.90 / hour) (Not eligible for TANF or Medicaid for parent) With child care assistance

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	CHILDREN'S MEDICAID	FOOD STAMPS	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$14,352	\$4,824	0	\$8,472	\$4296	\$14,858	0	\$1253 + \$1922	0	\$49977

FULL-TIME MINIMUM WAGE JOB (\$6.90 / hour) (Not eligible for TANF or Medicaid for parent) No child care assistance

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	CHILDREN'S MEDICAID	FOOD STAMPS	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$14,352	\$4,824	0	\$8,472	\$5556	0	0	\$1253 + \$1922	0	\$36379

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT EARNING \$7.50/HR (Not eligible for TANF or Medicaid for parent) With child care assistance

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	CHILDREN'S MEDICAID	FOOD STAMPS	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$15,600	\$4,764	0	\$8,472	\$3996	\$14,858	0	\$1165 + \$1922	0	\$50777

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT EARNING \$7.50/HR (Not eligible for TANF or Medicaid for parent) No child care assistance

WAGES	EITC	TANF CASH	CHILDREN'S MEDICAID	FOOD STAMPS	CHILD CARE	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	LIEAP & POWER DISCOUNT	Telephone Assistance*	TOTAL ANNUAL
\$15,600	\$4,764	0	\$8,472	\$5556	0	0	\$1165 + \$1922	0	\$37479

100% of the 2008 Federal Poverty Guideline for a family of three is \$17,600

75% is \$26,400

50% is \$35,200

These scenarios are based on a typical family paying \$350/month in rent.

When no child care assistance is received, TANF, Food Stamp and Medicaid eligibility determined allowing maximum dependent care disregards.

* To be eligible for telephone assistance the person with the phone in their name must be receiving Medicaid.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(Formerly the Food Stamp Program)

Program Overview: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through a selected state agency. In Montana that agency is the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). Program benefits are 100% federally funded and administrative costs are split by a 50% federal and 50% state general fund match. The program is an economic stimulus – every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generates nearly twice as much (\$9.20) in total community spending. The program mission is to provide food assistance to low income people and improve the nutrition, health, and wellbeing of SNAP recipients. The program plays a vital role in Montana's safety net for low income people especially in these times of rising food costs and current economic conditions. Benefits are distributed electronically using an "Electronic Benefit Transfer" (EBT) card which functions like a debit card. Program, policies, and procedures strike a balance between increasing program access while maintaining federal quality assurance standards stipulating a 94% accuracy rate. The state of Montana has been recognized by USDA for their timely processing of SNAP applications. To find out more information about eligibility standards and the application process go to the following link:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/programsservices/foodstampprogramoverview.shtml>

Recipients: The program provides benefits to Montana residents in fifty-six counties and on 7 Indian reservations. In July 2008 there were 35,805 households receiving SNAP benefits and 8,766 of these were American Indian households. Caseloads are continuing to rise. Families, singles, seniors, individuals with developmental disabilities, working people, and people on a fixed income are served by the program. Able-Bodied Adults Without Children (ABAWD) can only receive SNAP benefits for three initial months and up to three extended months in a fixed 36 month period, unless they meet a specified exemption. The most current fixed period started in December of 2008.

2008 Farm Bill: The 2008 Farm Bill changed the name of the program from the Food Stamp Program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to more accurately reflect the program mission of providing supplemental food and nutrition assistance to low income people. Other changes to improve program access included:

- Excluding certain military combat payments from income;
- Excluding tax-preferred educational and retirement accounts from countable resources;
- Eliminating the cap on dependent care deductions;
- Indexing the asset limits to inflation beginning in October 2008;
- Increasing the minimum benefit and indexing it to inflation for one and two person households; and
- Raising the standard deduction in 2009 and indexing it to inflation in 2010.

SNAP - NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Nutrition Education Program (SNAP Ed) is a federal/state partnership that supports nutrition education to SNAP recipients throughout the state. Services are contracted and managed by the Montana State University System, Extension Nutrition Education Programs. The goal of the program is to provide nutrition education that will increase the likelihood that recipients are making healthy food choices and choosing active lifestyles consistent with advice reflected in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. The program includes behaviorally focused, science-based nutrition education in areas of dietary quality, management/shopping behaviors, food security, and food safety. Services are provided to twenty-two counties and on 7 Indian reservations in Montana. Funding for SNAP Ed is allocated through a combination of federal funds and matching in-kind support. The Montana State University (MSU), MSU Extension, and other county and state organizations provide in-kind support to match the federal funds. The following is a link to the SNAP Ed website: <http://www.montana.edu/nep/>

SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Employment and Training Program's (SNAP E&T) goal is to assist SNAP recipients towards self-sufficiency through employment. This is accomplished through a combination of personal case management, training, work experience sites, referrals to other community resources, and supportive services. Funding for SNAP E&T is allocated through a combination of federal and state funds. The federal government allocates 100% funds for direct program services. Administrative program costs and supportive services are 50% matching federal funds and 50% state funds. Montana currently contracts SNAP E&T services with community partner agencies in Lewis & Clark, Missoula, Silver Bow, and Yellowstone Counties. Individuals who are subject to ABAWD rules addressed previously are exempt from time limited benefits while participating in the SNAP E&T Program.

SNAP OUTREACH

Outreach activities to increase program access and awareness are promoted by SNAP. The following is a brief description of some of Montana's outreach activities:

- Montana was awarded a federal participation grant and has formed a partnership with the Montana Food Bank and the Food Security Council to increase participation in and improve access to SNAP. The partnership will have a three-pronged approach to reaching the goals of the project:
 - Launch a campaign to educate the public about the program and to assist applicants through the application process;
 - Develop and implement an on-line application that can be transmitted electronically; and
 - Develop and implement a paperless SNAP case file system through a document imaging management service.

SNAP OUTREACH - continued

- The state launched a statewide educational campaign in October informing the public about the availability of the program and the program name change. The campaign included public service announcements, letters, flyers, and posters to increase program awareness.
- Outreach to migrant workers who come to Montana to pick cherries continues annually. Lake County sets up a mobile office on site at the orchards to assist migrants in applying for SNAP benefits.
- The state has contracted with the Missoula Food Bank to provide out reach services. The goal is to implement a county wide SNAP informational campaign, and to continue with their ongoing application assistance activities.
- The SNAP unit is developing a user-friendly program web site that will provide program information and links to direct Office of Public Assistance locations. This will be a link to the existing DPHHS website.
- Employees of local food banks/pantries and community volunteers have been trained to assist applicants with the SNAP application process.
- Several Farmers' Markets now accept SNAP EBT cards and more are planning to participate as a result of SNAP outreach activities.

SNAP Legislative Update 2008.doc/dc
12-11-08

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program Overview and Information

Overview:

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a federal block grant program, administered through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) that funds temporary cash assistance benefits for eligible families. This program replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program in 1996 and was reauthorized through the TANF Reauthorization language contained in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA).

Besides a monthly cash grant, the program also provides employment and training activities, including job readiness preparation and work experience opportunities. Participants in the program are required to participate in employment and training activities as outlined in federal regulation while receiving TANF cash assistance and cooperate in the pursuit of child support benefits, if appropriate. They may also be eligible for supportive services and case management services. The goal of the TANF program is to move participants into employment, as an alternative to public assistance.

Eligibility Criteria:

Eligibility for the TANF Cash Assistance is based on various criteria including the presence of a minor child(ren), Montana residency, social security number (or application for a number), citizenship/alien status including Refugee, cooperation with child support enforcement, income and resource limits, negotiation of and participation in allowable work activities and the number of months of receipt of TANF Cash Assistance.

Time Limits:

Eligibility for TANF cash assistance is time-limited; a family may only receive this assistance for a total of 60 months in the adult's lifetime. In rare exceptions, benefits may be extended beyond the 60 months, according to criteria established by the Department.

TANF Purposes:

The TANF Program has the following 4 purposes as outlined in federal regulation:

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be care for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
2. End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;

3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidences of these pregnancies; and
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

TANF funding:

TANF funding is issued to the State on a Federal Fiscal year basis. The amount of the block grant for Montana is approximately \$39,000,000 annually. If the TANF funding is not spent in any given year, it can be carried forward to the following year. However, because it is a block grant, it is a set amount that does not increase or decrease based on caseloads.

TANF MOE:

The TANF block grant program has an annual cost-sharing requirement, referred to as "maintenance of effort," or "MOE." Every fiscal year each State must spend a certain minimum amount of its own money (general fund money) to help eligible families in ways that are consistent with the purposes of the TANF program (see above).

This cost-sharing is required in order to receive the TANF block grant. The required MOE amount is based on an "applicable percentage" of the State's (nonfederal) expenditures on AFDC and the AFDC-related programs in 1994.

The applicable percentage depends on whether the State meets its minimum work participation rate requirements for that fiscal year (see below). A State that does not meet the required minimum work participation rate requirements must spend at least 80 percent of the amount it spent in 1994. A State that meets its minimum work participation rate requirements must spend at least 75 percent of the amount it spent in 1994.

Montana currently has a MOE spending requirement of 75 percent. However, it is anticipated that failure to meet the work participation rates may result in a penalty being assessed and a MOE requirement of 80 percent.

Work Participation Rates:

Individuals who are receiving TANF cash assistance and who are identified as being "work-eligible" according to federal definition, may be referred to either the Tribal NEW Program or the Work Readiness Component (WoRC) Program for case management services. These individuals are required to participate in limited employment and training activities, as outlined in federal regulation. These activities include employment, job search or job readiness activities (limited to 12 weeks in a preceding 12-month period, with no more than four weeks being consecutive), work experience, community service programs, on the job training, and limited educational activities, including post-secondary education (limited to 12 months in a lifetime), adult basic education and high school education.

Tracking of each individual's "rate" of participation in these allowable employment and training activities allows the state to establish an overall work participation rate. Through

the DRA, states are required to meet federally established work participation rates, currently set at 50 percent for single parent families and 90 percent for households with two parents, in order to maintain the MOE spending level of 75 percent and to avoid monetary penalties.

The calculation of the state's success in meeting the rates is based on the participation information provided in the TANF Data File. This information is submitted on a quarterly basis to ACF.

TANF Penalties:

Federal regulations govern the uses and expenditures of TANF funds. If federal or MOE funds are misspent or unspent at the required level (currently 75%), penalties are invoked by the federal TANF agency. In addition, if a state fails to meet the required work participation rates outlined above, the state is subject to penalties until the program comes back into compliance and meets the required rates.

What happens if a State misspends federal TANF funds?

45 CFR 262.1(a) states that a penalty of the amount by which a State misused its TANF funds will be assessed.

45 CFR 262.1(a)(2) states that an additional penalty of 5% of the adjusted block grant will be assessed if the misuse was intentional.

What happens if a State fails to meet the MOE spending requirement?

45 CFR 262.1(a)(8) states that for a State not meeting its MOE requirement, a penalty equal to the amount by which a State fails to meet its basic MOE will be assessed.

45 CFR 262.1(a)(12) states that a penalty of no more than 2% of the adjusted block grant plus the amount a State has failed to expend of its own funds to replace the reduction to the block grant due to the assessment of penalties in this section in the immediately succeeding fiscal year.

What happens if a State fails to meet the work participation rate?

45 CFR 262.1(a)(4) states that a penalty of up to 21% of the adjusted block grant will be assessed for failure to satisfy the minimum participation rates.

45 CFR 261.50 states that if a State does not meet the participation rate that a penalty of 5% of the adjusted block grant will be imposed the first year with that penalty increasing by an additional 2% for each successive year the rate is not met, up to a total of 21% of the block grant.

45 CFR 262.1(a)(14) states that if the State fails to impose penalties on those participants who do not engage in required work activities, a penalty of not less than 1% and not more than 5% of the adjusted block grant will be assessed.

What must the State do to resolve the penalty?

45 CFR 262.1(e)(1) states that in the immediately succeeding fiscal year, a State must expend additional State funds to replace any reduction in the adjusted block grant resulting from penalties.

Participation Hours:

Montana has continually and successfully operated an effective work-first TANF program. We require universal participation in allowable work activities for all TANF

recipients referred to WoRC for case management services. Single parent households with a child under the age of six (6) are currently required to participate 27 hours per week in activities; single parent households without a child under the age of 6 or households with two parents are required to participate 33 hours per week in allowable activities.

Caseload Data for September 2008:

Out of the 3132 cases receiving TANF cash assistance in September 2008, the average household size was two individuals. Of the total cases, 1255 cases or 40% were "child only" households, in which no adult is receiving TANF cash assistance; 1591 cases or 51% of the households containing adult recipients are considered single parent households and 290 cases or 9% are two-parent households.

Out of the 8061 recipients of TANF cash assistance in September 2008, a total of 4924 or 61% were Native American. Comparatively, in SFY 2008 66% of TANF recipients were Native American; in SFY 2007, 61% of TANF recipients were Native American.

In September 2008, the average adult is 20-25 years of age, with a high school diploma and the average child is under the age of one.

In September 2008, 666 TANF households had earned income, with the average wage of \$9.47 per hour. 180 households had earnings that enabled them to receive TANF benefits through the Post-Employment Program, which was implemented in August 2008. This program "extends" TANF eligibility for a maximum of three months to households who otherwise would have closed due to earned income. Individuals in this program are eligible for cash assistance, TANF child care, supportive services and case management services. They are also retained in the work participation rate.

In September 2008, three households were receiving TANF extended benefits due to exhausting their 60-month lifetime limit and meeting strict criteria to qualify for extended TANF benefits. Out of these households, 1 was due to physical or mental incapacity; 1 due to domestic violence and 1 due to physical or mental incapacity due to past domestic violence.

Average TANF Cash Benefits For Montana and Surrounding States

Cash benefit level for a family of three:

	Level in 2008	Level in 2006	Level in 2005
Idaho	\$309	\$309	\$309
Nebraska	\$364	\$364	\$364
Colorado	\$372	\$356	\$356
Nevada	\$383	\$348	\$348
Arizona	\$426	\$347	\$347
North Dakota	\$427	\$477	\$477
Montana	\$472	\$468	\$442
Utah	\$474	\$474	\$474
Wyoming	\$506	\$340	\$340
Oregon	\$528	\$514	\$503
South Dakota	\$539	\$508	\$508
Washington	\$562	\$546	\$546
California	\$723	\$723	\$704

Six states provide a lower benefit than Montana: Idaho, Nebraska, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona and North Dakota.

Six states provide a higher benefit than Montana: Utah, Wyoming, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and California.

If all 50 states and the District of Columbia are compared for 2005 (that year for which comparable statistics are available), 31 states offered a lower benefit than Montana and 19 states offered a higher benefit.

****Idaho pays the same benefit for all families, regardless of household size.**

Refugee Resettlement Program

The Refugee Resettlement Program administered by the State of Montana is 100 % federally funded with grants from the US Department of Health and Human Services/ Office of Refugee Resettlement. The program has been operational in Montana since 1986 and is monitored by the Human and Community Service Division of DPHHS. Montana staff work in partnership with service agencies to provide the best possible program available with limited funding.

"Refugee" is a broad term that applies to asylees and other eligible aliens. Services are time limited with a focus on self-sufficiency. Two grants are received.

- o The **Refugee Social Service (RSS)** grant is for \$75,000 for federal FY 2009. Funds are used to purchase services for individuals and families in areas of employment and integration into the community. Service funds can only be used for qualified refugees or asylees within the first 60 months in country or within 60 months from the date asylum was granted. Due to limited funds, services can be prioritized with those in the country the shortest time receiving the most services. Depending on the number of refugees within the state and services needed, this could result in only providing services to those in the county for less than a year.
- o The **Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance (CMA)** grant is for \$35,000 for federal FY 2009. Funds provide cash and medical assistance to qualified refugees for a period of time determined by the Director of the US Department of Health and Human Services. For federal fiscal year 2009 this span is expected to continue to be eight months from either date of entry in the United States as a refugee or date asylum status was granted by the United States.

In March of 2008 a refugee service provider reported 218 refugees living in central Montana. These refugees were from Laos, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. By October 2008 only eight, (four adults and four kids from Russia or Ukraine) were within the 60 month time limit. In 2008 Montana also served the following new arrivals: ten Iraqi refugees (seven adults and three children), one adult asylee from the Congo, and one adult asylee from Pakistan.

Montana has contracted with a Voluntary Agency (VOLAG) Lutheran and Immigration Services (LIRS) out of Denver for 2009 to provide resettlement case management for refugees living in Yellowstone County. LIRS will also provide reception and placement services, funded by the State Department, to new Iraqi refugees placed in Billings by the State Department. There is not currently a refugee social services provider in other areas of the State. DPHHS in Helena has been appointed as State Refugee Coordinator and will initiate outreach and coordinate services as needed.

TANF BLOCK GRANT ANALYSIS

SFY Expenditures through 30 June 2008 Projections for SFY 2009-2013

Grant Amounts for SFY2005-2013 have been reduced to remove tribal funding (SK, FBIC, RB, BF) and includes the anticipated Supplemental Grants (last one in 2009) and High Performance Bonuses (last one received for FFY 2004) in years after receipt

State Fiscal Year	SFY 2008	SFY 2009	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	SFY 2013
Actual/Projected Balance of Grant	\$35,786,347	\$38,997,889	\$35,243,983	\$28,209,173	\$19,235,134	\$12,637,434
Grant Amount	39,077,424	38,551,338	38,322,292	38,039,116	38,039,116	38,039,116
Projected Two Parent Penalty	0	(190,956)	(267,339)	(343,721)	(420,104)	(496,487)
Beginning Balance	\$74,863,771	\$77,258,271	\$73,298,936	\$65,904,567	\$56,854,146	\$50,180,063
Expenditures:						
Benefits - Cash Assistance	\$14,456,431	\$17,391,834	\$19,257,372	\$20,351,182	\$20,961,717	\$21,590,569
Child Support Supplemental	514,363	615,795	615,795	615,795	615,795	615,795
Total Benefits	\$14,970,794	\$18,007,629	\$19,873,167	\$20,966,977	\$21,577,512	\$22,206,364
Indirect Program 02 - HCSD	\$1,759,615	\$1,830,000	\$1,903,200	\$1,978,328	\$2,058,501	\$2,140,841
Indirect Program 03 - CFSD	1,276,119	1,327,164	1,380,251	1,435,461	1,492,879	1,552,594
Indirect Program 04- Director's Office	136,538	142,000	147,680	153,587	159,730	166,120
Indirect Program 06- Fiscal	347,425	361,322	375,775	390,806	406,439	422,696
Indirect Program 08 - QAD	123,110	128,034	133,155	138,482	144,021	149,782
Program 09 and 02 Systems - TEAMS	937,324	974,817	1,013,810	1,054,362	1,096,536	1,140,398
Program 09 and 03 Systems - CAPS	131,000	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
Total cost allocation	\$4,711,132	\$4,993,337	\$5,183,870	\$5,382,025	\$5,588,106	\$5,802,430
Other TANF uses:						
Second Chance Home Services Support	0	0	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Blackfeet Tribal New Contract	632,038	0	0	0	0	0
TANF System (removal from TEAMS)	130,663	2,200,000	3,000,000	3,269,337	0	0
CHIMES COSTS	1,188,152	0	0	0	0	0
Family Economic Security Plan	646,567	939,869	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Grand parents Raising Grandchildren Conference	16,560	0	0	0	0	0
Work Operator and OPA Improvements	17,971	0	0	0	0	0
Child Care for working Caretaker Relatives	325,249	683,784	466,704	485,072	485,072	485,072
Food Banks	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
DOLI Contracts	115,132	923,847	0	0	0	0
Work Support Payments	494,625	0	0	0	0	0
Post Employment Program (Benefit)	0	1,252,350	1,252,350	1,252,350	1,252,350	1,252,350
Accelerated Employment Service Program	310,850	504,436	504,436	504,436	504,436	504,436
Emerg Assist & Prg 03 Foster Care Benefits	2,256,912	2,360,000	2,360,000	2,360,000	2,360,000	2,360,000
Total other TANF uses	\$6,234,719	\$8,964,086	\$9,983,490	\$10,271,195	\$7,001,858	\$7,001,858
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$25,916,645	\$31,965,052	\$35,040,527	\$36,620,197	\$34,167,477	\$35,010,652
Transfers:						
Child Care	\$8,051,010	\$8,051,010	\$8,051,010	\$8,051,010	\$8,051,010	\$8,051,010
Title XX program 03	1,998,226	1,998,226	1,998,226	1,998,226	1,998,226	1,998,226
	\$10,049,236	\$10,049,236	\$10,049,236	\$10,049,236	\$10,049,236	\$10,049,236
Expenditures and Transfers	\$35,965,881	\$42,014,288	\$45,089,763	\$46,669,433	\$44,216,713	\$45,059,888
Ending Balance	\$38,897,889	\$35,243,983	\$28,209,173	\$19,235,134	\$12,637,434	\$5,120,175

SFY 2009 TANF MOE TRACKING SHEET - Working Document

November 2008, State Fiscal Year 2009

% of Year Elapsed

		Contract Budget	Expenditures YTD	Remaining Balance	Projection	% Spent
TANF Supportive Services & Other						
TANF Supportive Services County		1,141,821.00	427,065.86	(714,755.14)	1,141,821.00	37.40%
Subtotal	1,141,821.00	1,141,821.00	427,065.86	(714,755.14)	1,141,821.00	37.40%
TANF Employment and Training						
Direct Admin		448,000.00	150,890.51	(297,109.49)	448,000.00	33.68%
Direct Program		145,600.00	52,077.63	(93,522.37)	145,600.00	35.77%
Workers Compensation for Work Experience Sites		70,500.00	14,583.68	(55,916.32)	70,500.00	20.69%
WoRC Contracts		5,054,844.06	1,505,090.80	(3,549,753.26)	5,054,844.06	29.78%
DOLI WoRC Contract		2,084,829.61	697,812.17	(1,387,017.44)	2,084,829.61	33.47%
DOLI Rent		74,244.33	39,066.12	(35,178.21)	74,244.33	52.62%
DOLI WoRC Contracts (\$653,880.39)						
		Fed WoRC Part			Fed WoRC Part	
TANF Work Experience Sites		59,983.00	15,548.38	(44,434.62)	59,983.00	25.92%
Mental Health Centers (Billings and Great Falls)		146,574.00	17,140.91	(129,433.09)	146,574.00	11.69%
Special Projects		4,500.00	4,256.57	(243.43)	4,500.00	94.59%
Fort Belknap Indian Community Transition (MOE)		256,156.00	0.00	(256,156.00)	256,156.00	0.00%
Rocky Boy Transition (MOE)		350,041.00	117,712.00	(232,329.00)	350,041.00	33.63%
Blackfeet Tribal New		859,600.00	391,960.18	(467,639.82)	859,600.00	45.60%
TANF System		170,000.00	80,606.94	(89,393.06)	170,000.00	47.42%
Subtotal	9,724,872.00	9,724,872.00	3,086,745.89	(6,638,126.11)	9,724,872.00	31.74%
	10,866,693.00					
System Development						
	250,000.00	250,000.00	102,311.95	(147,688.05)	250,000.00	40.92%
Children's Basic Coverage	\$250,000.00					
	647,952.00	647,952.00	42,638.57	(605,313.43)	647,952.00	6.58%
	\$647,952.00					
Child Care MOE						
State Administration		1,313,990.00	287,011.75	(1,026,978.25)	1,313,990.00	21.84%
State Program		638,825.12	0.00	(638,825.12)	638,825.12	0.00%
		904,015.08	314,246.02	(589,769.06)	904,015.08	34.76%
Subtotal	2,856,830.20	2,856,830.20	601,257.77	(2,255,572.43)	2,856,830.20	21.05%
TOTAL	14,621,475.20	14,621,475.20	4,260,020.04	(10,361,455.16)	14,621,475.20	29.14%
MOE Requirement					13,129,100.00	
Difference					Over MOE Expenditures	1,492,375.20

Medicaid

Overview:

Medicaid was established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act as a federal-state matching entitlement program that pays for medical assistance for certain vulnerable and needy individuals and families with low incomes and resources, and is administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Medicaid is the largest program funding medical and health-related services for America's poorest people.

Within broad national guidelines established by federal statutes, regulations and policies, each state:

- establishes its own eligibility standards;
- determines the type, amount, duration and scope of services;
- sets the rate of payment for services; and
- administers its own program.

Medicaid policies for eligibility and services are complex, and vary considerably even among similar-sized and/or adjacent states. Thus, a person who is eligible for Medicaid in Montana might not be eligible in another state; and the services provided in Montana may differ considerably in amount, duration, or scope from services provided in neighboring states.

Each state must have an approved Medicaid State Plan that outlines the state's Medicaid eligibility guidelines and services. CMS must approve all additions and changes to the Medicaid State Plan.

Medicaid Programs:

Over the years various Medicaid programs have been added in an attempt to cover as many individuals as possible. In Montana, there are over 45 mandatory and optional Medicaid programs that were designed to cover children, pregnant women, parents or related caretakers, women diagnosed with breast and/or cervical cancer or precancer, the aged (age 65 and older), those who are blind or disabled (using Social Security criteria) and individuals needing coverage while residing in an institution (including nursing homes). Montana has optional medically needy coverage for some individuals as well.

Medicaid Coverage:

All Medicaid recipients who are under age 21, pregnant, blind, disabled or age 65 or older receive Full Medicaid coverage.

Montana has a demonstration waiver that allows the state to provide Basic Medicaid to able bodied adults who are ages 21 through 64. Under Basic Medicaid, these adults receive all medically necessary Medicaid-covered services with the exception of eyeglasses and optometric services, audiology and hearing aids, dental and denturist services, personal care services in the individual's home and durable medical equipment

Excluded services may be covered if either essential for the adult to seek, gain or maintain employment, or in emergency situations.

Medicaid Caseload Information:

While there is no typical Medicaid household, Montana Medicaid provides coverage for nearly 130,000 individuals each year. In SFY 2008, 80465 children and 48571 adults received Medicaid coverage. Of the children, approximately 4.8% received coverage as disabled children; in contrast, 39% of the adults who received Medicaid were disabled, and another 18.5% were aged.

Medicaid/Tribal Relationship:

With over 25% of the monthly Medicaid caseload identifying themselves as Native American, a special relationship has developed between Montana Medicaid and the Tribes across the state.

There are six county Offices of Public Assistance (OPA) located directly on reservations, and on the Rocky Boy Reservation, a Medicaid eligibility pilot has been implemented. This pilot is an agreement that allows the Chippewa Cree Tribe to determine Medicaid eligibility for tribal members under three family-related Medicaid programs. Montana is one of only two states in the nation to have such an agreement in place.

Medicaid Eligibility:

Whether or not an individual is eligible for Medicaid depends on a variety of factors. First and foremost, they must be in an eligible 'group'. Those groups, as identified earlier, include:

- children,
- parents or related caretakers,
- pregnant women,
- women diagnosed with breast and/or cervical cancer or precancer,
- aged,
- blind and
- disabled

If the individual does not fit into one of the above groups, they are not eligible for Medicaid. This means that in Montana, there is no coverage for childless adults age 21 through 64 who are not pregnant or disabled.

If the individual is in an eligible group, the next steps include looking at non-financial and financial eligibility. Non-financial is other criteria, including citizenship/alien status, identity, state residency, and compliance, such as cooperation with Child Support Enforcement and Third Party Liability, among others.

If non-financial eligibility is passed, financial eligibility using income and resources is then determined. This is done by comparing countable income and resources to the income and resource limits for the program(s) for which the person may qualify. If countable income and resources are within the limits, the person is eligible.

OPA staff currently determine Medicaid eligibility using TEAMS (The Economic Assistance Management System). Planned implementation of a new Medicaid eligibility system, CHIMES-Medicaid (Combined Healthcare Information and Montana Eligibility System) is scheduled for

July 2009. CHIMES-Medicaid will use automatic cascading eligibility to ensure that all possible Medicaid coverage is evaluated for each applicant and recipient.

Medically Needy:

If resources are within the allowable limits, but income exceeds the limit, medically needy coverage will be reviewed for those who are:

- children,
- pregnant women,
- aged,
- blind or
- disabled

Medically needy is optional Medicaid safety net coverage that allows otherwise eligible individuals in the groups above, whose countable income exceeds the program limits to receive Medicaid coverage after they have met an incurment, or spenddown. The incurment is the amount of medical expenses that the individual is personally responsible for each month. Providers can bill Medicaid for the bills that exceed this amount. Incurments can be met by incurring medical bills, making a cash payment to the State or by a combination of incurred medical bills and cash payment.

Medicaid Application:

Individuals and families can apply for Medicaid in any Montana county, regardless of where they live. While a completed and signed application is required, face-to-face interviews are not required to apply for Medicaid. Interviews are encouraged however, as there is a great deal of information that needs to be shared with all applicants, particularly those completing resource assessments. Applications can be mailed, faxed or dropped off at any county Office of Public Assistance (OPA).

Medicaid Accuracy:

Medicaid eligibility determination accuracy is tracked through case reviews. Quality Assurance Division (QAD) staff conduct both Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) and Program Error Rate Measurement (PERM) reviews. Review results are reported to CMS.

Montana's MEQC error rate for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 (October 2006 through September 2007) was 1.75%, which is below the 3% federal error tolerance. PERM error rates have not yet been published.

For additional information, a detailed Medicaid coverage group chart is attached.

MEDICAID COVERAGE GROUPS

PROGRAM	LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	CHILD SUPPORT	AGE LIMIT	INCOME	RESOURCE LIMIT	TARGET POPULATION
Family (FM)	Child must live with a specified caretaker relative; adult must have eligible child in home	Yes	Children 0 to 19 years; related adults	Benefit Standard/ Medically Needy	\$3,000	Families with children age 0 through month of 19 th birthday. Adult can only be covered if case is not medically needy
Pregnancy (PW)	N/A	No	N/A	150% of FPL	\$3,000	Pregnant women of any age
Qualified Pregnant Women (QP)	N/A	Yes	N/A	Medically Needy	\$3,000	Pregnant women of any age who have countable income that exceeds the income limit for the Pregnancy program.
Child-Newborn (AN)	Child must continue to live with its mother	No	Birth through month of first birthday	N/A	\$3,000	Children birth through month of 1 st birthday whose mother was eligible for and receiving Medicaid at time of birth
Child-Under Age 6 (PC)	Child may be living independently or with adult who is not a specified caretaker relative	No	Birth through month of 6 th Birthday	133% of FPL	\$15,000	Children birth through month of 6 th birthday
Child -Age 6 to 19 (PS)	Child may be living independently or with an adult who is not a specified caretaker relative	No	At least 6 years, through month of 19 th birthday	100% of FPL	\$15,000	Children age 6 through month of 19 th birthday
Child-Medically Needy (RK)	Child may be living independently, but must not be living with a parent or specified caretaker relative	No	Birth through month of 19 th Birthday	Medically Needy	\$3,000	Children birth through month of 19 th birthday
Subsidized Adoption (AD)	Child is living with adoptive parents, or adoptive parents remain financially responsible if child not in home	No	Birth through month of 21 st birthday	N/A	N/A	Adopted children with special needs. Medicaid coverage guaranteed with adoption. If IV-E, may be eligible through month of 18 th birthday (may be extended in certain circumstances). If non-IV-E, may be eligible through mo of 21 st birthday
IV-E Foster Care (FF)	Child in paid foster care placement	Yes	0 to 18 years	1996 AFDC standards	\$10000 - initial IV-E determination; \$3000 - Medicaid	Foster children who are IV-E eligible

Non-IV-E Foster Care (FW)	Child in paid foster care placement	No	0 to 21 years	Benefit Standard/MN	\$3,000	Foster children who do not meet IV-E eligibility requirements
Pregnancy-Continued	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	\$3,000	Pregnant women who lost other Medicaid due to increased income. Coverage continues throughout pregnancy without regard to income.
Pregnancy-Extended (EP)	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	None	Pregnant woman who were receiving Medicaid at time of the child's birth.
Family-Transitional (TR)	Child must live with specified caretaker relative	No	Children birth through mo of 19 th birthday; adults	1 st 6 mo - none; 2nd 6 mo - 185% FPL	None	Families who's non-medically needy Family Medicaid closes due to increased earned income. Eligible for maximum of 12 consecutive months.
Family-Extended (EC)	Child must live with specified caretaker relative	Yes	Children birth through mo of 19 th birthday; adults	N/A	None	Families who's non-medically needy Family Medicaid closes due to new or increased child/spousal support. Eligible for up to 4 consecutive months.
Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment (BC)	N/A	N/A	Under 65	200% FPL	None	Women screened through MBCHP who are subsequently diagnosed with breast and/or cervical cancer or precancer. Cannot have 'creditable coverage' or be eligible for any other categorically needy Medicaid program.
Institutionalized - Aged (IA)	Living in a nursing home	N/A	Age 65 or older	Must not exceed cost of care	\$2000*	Institutionalized (nursing home) residents age 65 or older
Institutionalized - Disabled (ID)	Disabled individual in nursing home or residential treatment facilities	N/A	Under age 65	Must not exceed cost of care	\$2000*	Institutionalized individuals who meet SSA disability definition
MA-Aged (MA)	Non-institutional community living	N/A	Age 65 or older	None - over SSI payment rate = must meet incurment	\$2000 for an individual; \$3000 for a couple	Non institutionalized individuals/couples age 65 or older
MA-Blind (MB)	Non-institutional community living	N/A	N/A	None - over SSI payment rate = must meet incurment	\$2000 for an individual; \$3000 for a couple	Blind individuals/couples who meet SSA blind definition
MA-Disabled (MD)	Non-institutional community living	N/A	Under age 65	None - over SSI payment rate = must meet incurment	\$2000 for an individual; \$3000 for a couple	Non-institutionalized individuals/couples who meet SSA disability definition

SSI-SSP Aged (SA)	Non-institutional community living	N/A	Age 65 or older	N/A	\$2000 for an individual; \$3000 for a couple	Recipients of SSI cash benefits who are age 65 or older
SSI-SSP Blind (SB)	Non-institutional community living	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2000 for an individual; \$3000 for a couple	Blind SSI cash recipients
SSI-SSP Disabled (SD)	Non-institutional community living	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2000 for an individual; \$3000 for a couple	Disabled SSI cash recipients
Waiver Aged (WA)	Non-institutional community living or in a personal care home	N/A	Age 65 or older	None - over SSI payment rate = must meet incurment	\$2000*	Those who would be eligible for nursing home care but choose to remain in the community
Waiver Disabled (WD)	Non-institutional community living or in a personal care home	N/A	Under age 65	None - over SSI payment rate = must meet incurment	\$2000*	Those who would be eligible for nursing home care but choose to remain in the community and who meet SSA disability definition.
Developmentally Disabled Waivers (WO)	Group home for the Developmentally Disabled or living in the community	N/A	0208 Waiver - N/A; 0371 Waiver - over age 18; 0667 Waiver (autism) 18 months to under age 5 when enrolled	None - over SSI payment rate = must meet incurment	\$2000*	Those who would be eligible for intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded. This group includes three separate waivers, each serving a different group of developmentally disabled individuals.
Waiver Mental Health (WM)	Individuals living in the community.	N/A	18 and older (SDMI) Ages 6 through 16 (PRTF)	None - over SSI payment rate = must meet incurment	\$2000*	For disabled individuals with severely disabling mental illness (SDMI) and for individuals with diagnosed serious emotional disturbance and meets criteria for admission to psychiatric residential treatment (PRTF). SDMI is limited to 105 individuals living in the following counties: Yellowstone, Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Silver Bow, Powell, Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Granite, Cascade, Blaine, Choteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, Toole and Cascade. For the PRTF group, waiver of parental deeming and spousal impoverishment rules do not apply.
PACE - Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly	Individuals living in the community at time of enrollment.	N/A	Age 55 or older	None - over SSI payment rate = must meet incurment	\$2000*	Those who would be eligible for nursing home care but choose to remain in the community. Enrollees must be living in the service area, currently limited to the city of Livingston and the Billings area. Enrollment is limited to 130 individuals.

QMB - Aged (QA)	N/A	N/A	65 and older	Up to 100% FPL	\$4000 - one \$6000 - two	Medicare beneficiaries
QMB - Disabled (QD)	N/A	N/A	Under age 65	Up to 100% FPL	\$4000 - one \$6000 - two	Disabled Medicare beneficiaries
SLMB	N/A	N/A	N/A	100% - 120% FPL	\$4000 - one \$6000 - two	Medicare beneficiaries over QMB income limit but under QI limit
QI	N/A	N/A	N/A	120%-135% FPL	\$4000 - one \$6000 - two	Medicare beneficiaries over SLMB income limit but under 135% of poverty

*If applicant has a spouse, spouse is entitled to a minimum of \$21,912 or a maximum of ½ of all resources up to \$109,560 (spousal impoverishment rules).

QMB pays:

Medicare Part A premium (if applicable)
 Medicare Part B premium
 Medicare Deductibles
 Medicare Co-insurance

QI and SLMB pay:

Medicare Part B premium only

PAB Contracts	Purpose	Location
MEDS (Medicaid Eligibility Determination Services)	To provide Medicaid disability evaluation services for determination of disability for the Montana Medicaid Program in limited circumstances.	Billings, Montana
Montana State University SNAP Nutrition Education	To provide nutrition education to SNAP recipients in the areas of dietary quality, management/shopping behaviors, food security, and food safety.	Bozeman
District VII HRDC SNAP Employment & Training	To assist SNAP recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Billings
Career Futures SNAP Employment & Training	To assist SNAP recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Butte
Career Training Institute SNAP Employment & Training	To assist SNAP recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Helena
Dept. of Labor & Industries SNAP Employment & Training	To assist SNAP recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Missoula
Missoula Food Bank	To provide SNAP outreach services in Missoula County.	Missoula
Northrop Grumman Montana Access	To provide electronic benefit transfer services to SNAP and TANF recipients.	Helena
Food Bank Network	SNAP Participation Grant – to provide outreach services	Missoula
Career Futures	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Butte
Career Training Institute	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Helena
Career Transitions, Inc	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Belgrade
Department of Labor and Industry	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Helena
Human Resource Development Council, District IV	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Havre
Human Resource Development Council, District VI	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Lewistown
Human Resource Development Council, District VII	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Billings

Human Resource Development Council, District XI	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Missoula
Learning Partners	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Livingston
Miles City Community College	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Miles City
Montana PEAKS	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Columbia Falls
Northwest Montana Human Resources, Inc.	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Kalispell
Richland County Commissioners	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Sidney
Valcon Tech, Inc.	To assist TANF recipients in achieving self-sufficiency through employment.	Hardin
South Central Mental Health	To provide intensive case management to TANF recipients.	Billings
Center for Mental Health	To provide intensive case management to TANF recipients.	Great Falls
Montana Food Bank Network, Inc.	To assist food banks with commodities for TANF participants.	Missoula
Career Training Institute	To develop activities to improve TANF eligible families long term economic security and stability.	Helena
Career Transitions, Inc	To develop activities to improve TANF eligible families long term economic security and stability.	Belgrade
Consumer Credit Counseling	To develop activities to improve TANF eligible families long term economic security and improve stability.	Great Falls
Department of Labor and Industry	To develop activities to improve TANF eligible families long term economic security and stability.	Helena
Human Resource Development Council, District VII	To develop activities to improve TANF eligible families long term economic security and stability.	Billings
Montana PEAKS, Inc	To develop activities to improve TANF eligible families long term economic security and stability.	Columbia Falls

Rural Employment Opportunities	To develop activities to improve TANF eligible families long term economic security and stability.	Helena
Blackfeet NEW	To provide cash program participation services to participants in the State's TANF program through the Blackfeet NEW program.	Browning
Fort Belknap TANF MOE	To provide state TANF MOE cash assistance as defined in the federally approved Tribal Family Assistance Plan which meets the MOE Requirement.	Fort Belknap Agency
Rocky Boy's TANF MOE	To provide state TANF MOE cash assistance as defined in the federally approved Tribal Family Assistance Plan which meets the MOE Requirement.	Rocky Boy's Reservation
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation	To provide the Chippewa Cree Tribe assistance in determining Medicaid eligibility.	Rocky Boy's Reservation
Lutheran Social Services of Colorado	To assist refugees who are not eligible for public assistance or refugee resettlement benefits to achieve self-sufficiency through employment.	Billings

2008 POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINES

Income Guidelines as Published in the Federal Register, Vol 73, No 15, January 23, 2008

ANNUAL GUIDELINES

FAMILY SIZE	PERCENT OF POVERTY								
	100%	120%	133%	135%	150%	175%	185%	200%	250%
1	10,400.00	12,480.00	13,832.00	14,040.00	15,600.00	18,200.00	19,240.00	20,800.00	26,000.00
2	14,000.00	16,800.00	18,620.00	18,900.00	21,000.00	24,500.00	25,900.00	28,000.00	35,000.00
3	17,600.00	21,120.00	23,408.00	23,760.00	26,400.00	30,800.00	32,560.00	35,200.00	44,000.00
4	21,200.00	25,440.00	28,196.00	28,620.00	31,800.00	37,100.00	39,220.00	42,400.00	53,000.00
5	24,800.00	29,760.00	32,984.00	33,480.00	37,200.00	43,400.00	45,880.00	49,600.00	62,000.00
6	28,400.00	34,080.00	37,772.00	38,340.00	42,600.00	49,700.00	52,540.00	56,800.00	71,000.00
7	32,000.00	38,400.00	42,560.00	43,200.00	48,000.00	56,000.00	59,200.00	64,000.00	80,000.00
8	35,600.00	42,720.00	47,348.00	48,060.00	53,400.00	62,300.00	65,860.00	71,200.00	89,000.00
9	39,200.00	47,040.00	52,136.00	52,920.00	58,800.00	68,600.00	72,520.00	78,400.00	98,000.00
10	42,800.00	51,360.00	56,924.00	57,780.00	64,200.00	74,900.00	79,180.00	85,600.00	107,000.00
11	46,400.00	55,680.00	61,712.00	62,640.00	69,600.00	81,200.00	85,840.00	92,800.00	116,000.00
12	50,000.00	60,000.00	66,500.00	67,500.00	75,000.00	87,500.00	92,500.00	100,000.00	125,000.00
13	53,600.00	64,320.00	71,288.00	72,360.00	80,400.00	93,800.00	99,160.00	107,200.00	134,000.00
14	57,200.00	68,640.00	76,076.00	77,220.00	85,800.00	100,100.00	105,820.00	114,400.00	143,000.00
15	60,800.00	72,960.00	80,864.00	82,080.00	91,200.00	106,400.00	112,480.00	121,600.00	152,000.00
16	64,400.00	77,280.00	85,652.00	86,940.00	96,600.00	112,700.00	119,140.00	128,800.00	161,000.00

For family units of more than 16 members, add \$3,600 for each additional member.

MONTHLY GUIDELINES

FAMILY SIZE	PERCENT OF POVERTY								
	100%	120%	133%	135%	150%	175%	185%	200%	250%
1	866.67	1,040.00	1,152.67	1,170.00	1,300.00	1,516.67	1,603.33	1,733.33	2,166.67
2	1,166.67	1,400.00	1,551.67	1,575.00	1,750.00	2,041.67	2,158.33	2,333.33	2,916.67
3	1,466.67	1,760.00	1,950.67	1,980.00	2,200.00	2,566.67	2,713.33	2,933.33	3,666.67
4	1,766.67	2,120.00	2,349.67	2,385.00	2,650.00	3,091.67	3,268.33	3,533.33	4,416.67
5	2,066.67	2,480.00	2,748.67	2,790.00	3,100.00	3,616.67	3,823.33	4,133.33	5,166.67
6	2,366.67	2,840.00	3,147.67	3,195.00	3,550.00	4,141.67	4,378.33	4,733.33	5,916.67
7	2,666.67	3,200.00	3,546.67	3,600.00	4,000.00	4,666.67	4,933.33	5,333.33	6,666.67
8	2,966.67	3,560.00	3,945.67	4,005.00	4,450.00	5,191.67	5,488.33	5,933.33	7,416.67
9	3,266.67	3,920.00	4,344.67	4,410.00	4,900.00	5,716.67	6,043.33	6,533.33	8,166.67
10	3,566.67	4,280.00	4,743.67	4,815.00	5,350.00	6,241.67	6,598.33	7,133.33	8,916.67
11	3,866.67	4,640.00	5,142.67	5,220.00	5,800.00	6,766.67	7,153.33	7,733.33	9,666.67
12	4,166.67	5,000.00	5,541.67	5,625.00	6,250.00	7,291.67	7,708.33	8,333.33	10,416.67
13	4,466.67	5,360.00	5,940.67	6,030.00	6,700.00	7,816.67	8,263.33	8,933.33	11,166.67
14	4,766.67	5,720.00	6,339.67	6,435.00	7,150.00	8,341.67	8,818.33	9,533.33	11,916.67
15	5,066.67	6,080.00	6,738.67	6,840.00	7,600.00	8,866.67	9,373.33	10,133.33	12,666.67
16	5,366.67	6,440.00	7,137.67	7,245.00	8,050.00	9,391.67	9,928.33	10,733.33	13,416.67

#1



**Department of Public Health and Human Services
Human and Community Services Division**

Presentation to the 2009 Legislative Session

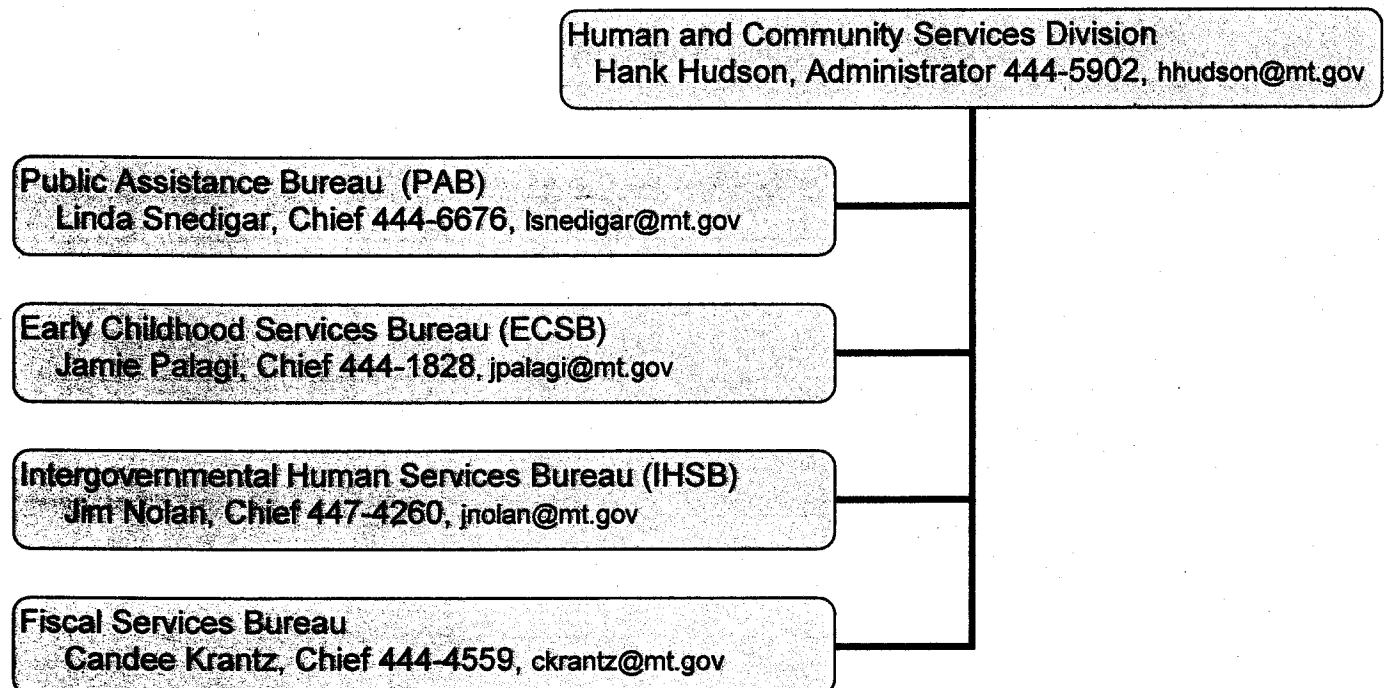
Overview of Human and Community Services Division (HCSD)

The Mission of the Division is "To support the strengths of families and communities by promoting employment and providing the assistance necessary to help families and individuals meet basic needs and work their way out of poverty."

What the Division Does - HCSD provides a wide range of benefits and services to the low-income people of Montana. Major programs include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (SNAP) formerly known as Food Stamps, eligibility determination for TANF, SNAP and Medicaid; Child Care services, Child and Adult Food Program reimbursements, Low-Income Energy Assistance Program benefits (LIEAP), Weatherization services, and Commodity Foods.

How Services Are Provided - Benefits are provided and services are delivered primarily through the Office's of Public Assistance located throughout the state, ten human resource development councils, all seven tribes, and twelve child care resource and referral agencies.

Program Description and Primary Contacts- The Human and Community Services Division is comprised of four bureaus as follows:



1) Public Assistance Bureau (PAB) administers Montana's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as Food Stamps and provides eligibility services for the Medicaid program. Eligibility determination services for all three programs are provided by field staff statewide in local Office of Public Assistance (OPA) offices and regularly scheduled outreach to other counties.

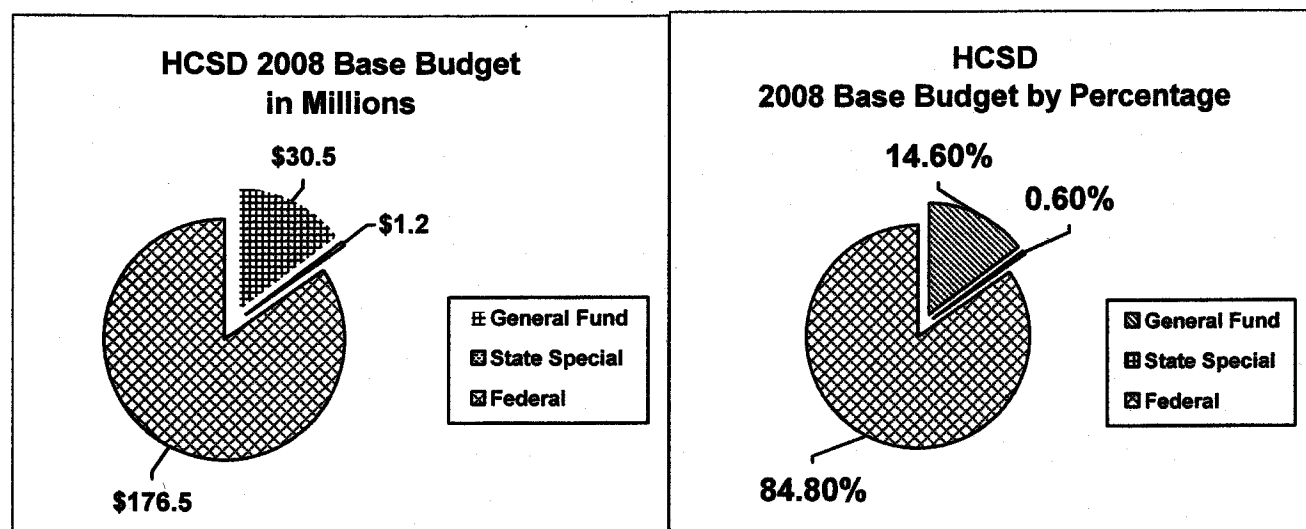
2) Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB) manages the funds which pay child care for TANF participants and low-income working families; contracts with 12 resource and referral agencies to administer child care eligibility, provider recruitment, and technical assistance; administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program which provides reimbursement to child care providers for the cost of meals served to eligible children and adults; administers the Head Start State Collaboration grant; administers the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant; and manages the funds which pay for quality child care initiatives including professional development.

3) Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau (IHSB) administers the Community Services block grant which is used by 10 Human Resource Development Councils to provide a wide range of community-based human services; the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program and Weatherization program; the DOE Weatherization program including funding for weatherization from five other sources; the Emergency Shelter grants program; two Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS grants; and three USDA commodities programs. In addition, the bureau stores and distributes USDA commodity foods to elderly feeding sites, and stores USDA commodity foods for school lunch programs.

4) Fiscal Services Bureau provides budget analysis and financial management, coordinates information with other bureaus, purchases supplies and equipment and assists with leases.

Budget Overview

The Division's budget, shown below in millions and in percentages, is mostly federal special revenue.



Spending and Funding Information

Basic Funding – In 2008, the division was funded with 84.8% federal special funds, 14.6% state general fund, and 0.6% state special revenue funds.

FTE From 2007 Session - This division did not receive any additional FTE in the 2007 session.

FTE information and turnover issues - The division has 452.8 FTE, the majority of which are eligibility workers located outside of Helena. PL20007 requests an additional ten FTE, five in each year which represents a 2.2% increase. This is the first request for additional FTE for eligibility in recent history. In addition, the implementation of I-155, Healthy Montana Kids, requires additional eligibility staff with no additional general fund cost. Caseload growth, increased complexity and consequences for accuracy and timeliness, turnover and other issues are driving this request.

Significant Issues:

The economic downturn in the nation and Montana has resulted in a significant increase in applications for assistance. The Division has operated with the same number of eligibility staff for the past decade. This increased activity, and the growing complexity of Medicaid eligibility will challenge the Division to maintain its high standards for timeliness, accuracy and customer service.

The Division manages several large Federal block grants. Specifically, these include TANF, Child Care and LIEAP. While caseloads will probably grow the amount of available funding will remain constant. When this occurs the Division will need to make difficult decisions regarding who may access benefits and how much of a benefit will be available.

Public health care programs are expanding rapidly. The most recent change is passage of the Healthy Montana kids Initiative. This initiative envisions a unified, simplified and collaborative eligibility process. Making the most of this opportunity to improve health care eligibility is a major challenge.

The Division is currently in the midst of major automated eligibility system development. The new Medicaid system, CHIMES – Medicaid, will be completed in the fall of 2009. The SNAP and TANF systems are currently being developed. The schedule calls for the contract to build those two systems to be finalized in late 2009. These are complex and large projects which require substantial human and financial resources

Accomplishments:

The SNAP - Food Stamp program continues to win large financial awards as a result of their high standards of accuracy and timeliness. Most recently the program received \$238,990 which is being used to assist in the reduction of hunger in Montana.

The State's TANF program is one of the highest rated programs in the nation for placing clients in employment. This success has allowed Montana to invest TANF funds in work support programs such as The Family Economic Security Project and Post Employment Services.

In response to the commitment to limit the negative impact of rising heating costs, the Department and the Human Resources Development Councils have developed the Warm Hearts for Warm Homes Program. In its fourth year this program continues to provide information and assistance to reduce the heating bills for Montanans of modest income.

The Department is nearing completion of a new automated Medicaid eligibility system, CHIMES-Medicaid. This system will be more accurate, less expensive to change and provide better management information than the current system. At this time CHIMES-Medicaid remains on-time and on-budget.

The Early Childhood Services Bureau has released a first draft of their new Early Childhood Services quality improvement initiative known as STARS. This initiative will provide incentives and support to workers in the field of early childhood education in order for them to increase their professional skills. The division is committed to quality early childhood services and STARS represent a blueprint for the future. The system is scheduled for testing in 2010.

Goals and Objectives

2009 Goals and Objectives

- Maintain childcare availability by setting reimbursement rates at the 75th percentile, indexing the Federal Poverty Level for eligibility and not using a waiting list to ration services.

This goal was accomplished.

- Provide energy and/or weatherization services to eligible households resulting in decreased energy cost burden measured by dividing energy costs by household income.

This goal was accomplished.

- Meet the TANF work participation requirements as presented in the deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

This goal was partially accomplished. There are two TANF work participation rates. The all family work participation is 50% and has been achieved. The two parent participation rate is 90% and we are at approximately 89%; however, the results are not yet finalized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Administration for Children and Families.

2011 Biennium Goals and Objectives

To meet the Division's mission, the guiding principles are sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness. We strive to increase the self-sufficiency of the low-income families we serve and provide them a safety net.

HCSD Goals and Objectives:

- increase the economic security and self-sufficiency of Montana families.
- ensure the health and safety of Montanans by providing essential services and linkages to community resources.

Measurements:

TANF

- provide basic cash grant
- engage all families in allowable work activities
- meet Federal work participation requirements

SNAP (Food Stamps)

- meet all Federal accuracy and timeliness requirements
- expand the use of Food Stamps (SNAP)

Medicaid Eligibility

- meet all Federal accuracy and timeliness requirements
- coordinate with all public health care programs

LIEAP

- provide cost-effective energy conservation measures to low-income families
- provide eligible households assistance with heating bills

Childcare

- provide affordable, accessible, quality childcare for low-income families by adequately reimbursing childcare providers and serving families without a waiting list.

Decision Packages

The following decision packages are requests for new and continued funding requested by the division for general fund, state special revenue funds and federal special revenue funds. The division has no requests for authority to expend federal and state special revenue funds from new sources.

PL- 20001 - Child and Adult Care Food Program PL Adjustment -

HCSD is requesting additional federal authority for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in the amount of \$500,000 for SFY 2010 and \$750,000 for SFY 2011. The request reflects an estimate based on the historical average annual increase in program reimbursement rates.

PL- 20002 - Child Care FPI, Market Rate, Caseload, Inc. -

The division requests general fund authority for Child Care Match in the amount of \$949,321 for FY 2010 and \$2,231,230 for FY 2011 for a total of \$3,180,551 over the biennium. Specific

components of the Child Care Match program include: 1) maintaining child care reimbursement rates for parents at the 75th percentile of the annual market rate survey; 2) maintaining eligibility at 150% of the current federal poverty level; and 3) maintaining caseload for low income working parents.

NP- 20004 - Child Care Administration -

One FTE is requested for a Program Integrity FTE in the Early Childhood Services Bureau in the amount of \$52,693 of federal funds in FY 2010 and \$52,764 of federal funds in FY 2011 to meet the new federal error rate requirements, including oversight, auditing, and program coordination.

PL- 20005 - TANF Cash Benefit Increase -

This present law adjustment requests \$4,142,319 federal appropriation authority for the biennium to fund a projected 3% increase per year in the case load of TANF benefit recipients and to increase the benefit level from 33% of the 2007 federal poverty level to 33% of the 2009 federal poverty level. Eligibility for the TANF program will remain at 30% of the 2002 federal poverty level.

PL- 20006 - OPA Offices and Central Office Rent Increases -

The division requests \$362,413 for rental increases and relocation costs in SFY 2010 and \$316,622 for rental increases in SFY 2011. The biennial amount of general fund being requested is \$331,980. Rental costs for buildings administered by the Department of Administration are automatically increased as part of the fixed-cost adjustment each biennium. The Offices of Public Assistance and HCSD central office rental leases do not fall within the scope of these buildings and do not receive the fixed-cost adjustment. Offices in 22 counties will have rental increases in accordance with established lease agreements. This request also includes consolidation of 26 local division employees at the new South Pointe building at a rate of \$23.13 in SFY 2010 and \$23.36 in SFY 2011.

PL- 20007 - Field Eligibility Staff Increase -

This request adds 5.00 FTE to the Offices of Public Assistance in the first year of the biennium and an additional 5.00 FTE in the second year. The request also would annualize the Chippewa Cree of Rocky Boy's Reservation Medicaid eligibility program. In total, this decision package would require a biennial budget increase of \$904,978 of cost-allocated authority. The general fund authority would be \$434,678 for the biennium.

PL- 20008 - SNAP/Food Stamp Benefits -

This present law adjustment requests \$45,459,630 federal appropriation authority for the biennium to fund the anticipated caseload and poverty level adjustments. From July 2001 to October 2008, the SNAP/food stamp benefit cases have increased from 27,120 cases per month to 36,321 cases per month. This represents a 33.9% increase.

NP- 20009 - TANF Second-Chance Homes -

The Human and Community Services Division is requesting \$300,000 of federal TANF block grant funds in each year of the 2011 biennium to support residential services to high-risk teen parents.

PL- 20011 - Child Care for Working Caretaker Relatives -

This present law adjustment requests \$951,766 of federal spending authority for the 2011 biennium to provide child care for working caretaker relatives of eligible children for the TANF child-only grant.

NP- 20013 - IHSB Contract Monitoring and Preparation -

Federal authority of \$77,006 in FY 2010 and \$77,034 in FY 2011 is requested for personal services to support 1.50 FTE added for increased workload. A temporary position now provides monitoring and technical assistance to Human Resource Development Councils (HRDC's), tribes, and other contractors following the addition of several grants over the last four years. A position currently funded at half time is requested to be full time. The requirements of the position were doubled when the duties of preparing, tracking, and authorizing contracts were transferred to the bureau.

PL- 20015 - IHSB Present Law Increases -

HCSD requests a present law adjustment for Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau (IHSB) to increase spending authority by \$1,010,000 for each year of the 2011 biennium for four federally funded grants and one state special revenue fund.

NP- 20017 - Family Economic Security Grant Program -

The division requests \$2,000,000 of federal TANF block grant funds in each year of the 2011 biennium to promote family economic security. This project utilizes financial literacy training, asset development, and education/training to assist in obtaining higher wages. This program will assist families to become financially secure.

PL- 20018 - Restore Overtime/Holidays Worked -

This present law adjustment requests \$60,000 of spending authority for the 2011 biennium to restore zero-based overtime. The general fund included in the request is \$26,400 for the biennium.

PL - 20020 Reduction of Child Care Market Rate Increase -

This request reduces general fund \$280,925 in FY 2010 and \$855,745 in FY 2011 to offset the proposed general fund child care market rate increase in PL 20002.

PL-7101 - Fuel Inflation Reduction -

The inflation factor applied to gasoline and diesel expenditures is being replaced with an inflation factor of zero percent. The reduction in general fund for the biennium is \$1,919.

NP 8101 - Increase Vacancy Savings -

The December 15th amendment to the Executive budget increased the applied vacancy savings rate from 4% to 7%. There is 4% vacancy savings built into agency adjusted base budgets. This decision package includes the additional 3% vacancy savings. The additional reduction in total spending for the biennium is \$1,397,078 of which \$642,511 is general fund.

Proposed Legislation from the Human and Community Services Division:

LC 1407 – “An Act Revising Medicaid Eligibility Requirements for Pregnant Women, Infants and Children, and Caretakers”

This bill will update the Medicaid statutes to recognize technical changes in eligible categories which resulted from Federal Welfare reform. In addition, the bill recognizes that eligibility for pregnant women and infants is no longer 133% of the Federal poverty level.

SB 119 – Medicaid Buy-in Option for Individuals with Disabilities

This bill authorizes the Department to seek federal approval of a Medicaid purchase program for individuals with disabilities who wish to work. Currently some individuals who receive disability benefits do not work for fear their increased income will cause them to lose Medicaid coverage. This bill would authorize a program which would allow these workers to pay a premium to stay on Medicaid

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Department of Public Health and Human Services Human and Community Services Division

Presentation to the 2009 Legislative Session

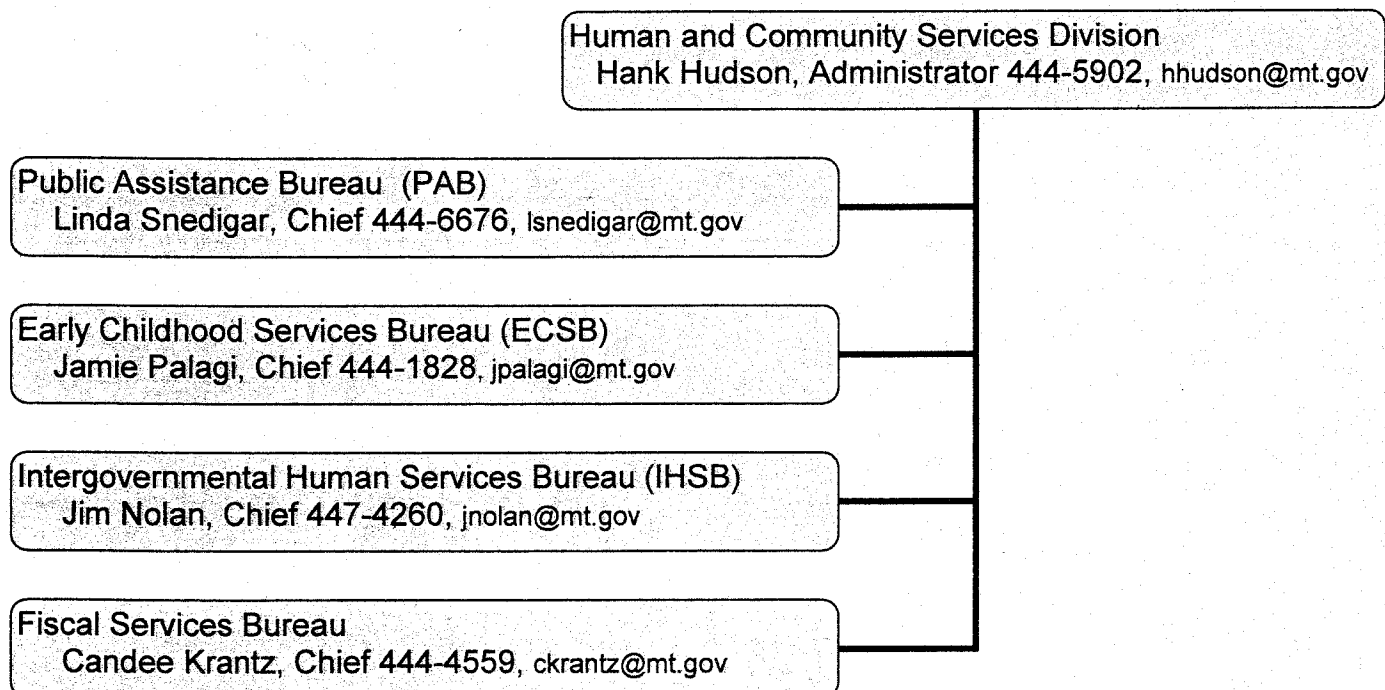
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Program Description and Primary Contacts- The Human and Community Services Division is comprised of four bureaus as follows:



EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

1-16-9

Assistance staff member.

COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS:

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) offers several programs to help you. Use this application to apply for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) or Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA).

1. **If you don't have time to complete the full application now, complete the entire first page, including signature, and turn in only the top copy of the first page today.**
2. If you are eligible for **SNAP benefits or RCA**, benefits may start from the date the front page of the application is received. If you are eligible for **TANF cash assistance**, benefits may start from the date the front page of the application is received, or the date you enroll in the WoRC program, if referred, whichever is later. If you are eligible, **Medicaid** may begin up to three (3) months prior to the month of application. If you are eligible for **RMA**, benefits start the first of the month in which you applied or the date your refugee/asylee status was granted, whichever is later.
3. You may be entitled to receive **SNAP benefits** within seven days (expedited service). See the back of page 1 for details.
4. Complete the entire application to the best of your ability.
5. Please use black or blue ink (it is easy to read and copies best). Print your answers.
6. If more space is needed to answer any question, attach an additional sheet with appropriate information about each additional person.
7. The application should be filled out by a household member or an authorized representative who knows the financial situation of all household members. The person completing the application is responsible for the answers given.
8. Any question that refers to "household" is referring to those persons applying for assistance and those financially responsible for them. For Medicaid, Refugee Medical and SNAP benefits, you need to enter the Social Security number and citizenship.
9. All questions are marked to indicate the program(s) to which they apply.
M for Medicaid, (Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance)
S for SNAP Benefits
C for Cash assistance (TANF or Refugee Cash Assistance)

Please pay particular attention to these codes in the white section of the application.

10. If NOT applying for **Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance (M)**, you can skip questions 36 through 43 (light blue background).
 1. If NOT applying for **SNAP Benefits (S)**, you can skip questions 44 through 51 (green background).
 2. If NOT applying for **TANF or Refugee Cash Assistance (C)**, you can skip questions 52 through 55 (light orange background).

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

Date Application Received: _____

Case Number: _____

Date of Interview: _____

☐ TANF ☐ FS ☐ Exp ☐ MA ☐ MSP

GRAY SHADED AREAS ARE FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND AGENCY USE ONLY.

Name: _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ Day Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ Message Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Do you live within the geographic boundaries of an Indian Reservation? ____ Yes ____ No

If you do not live at a street address, on a separate piece of paper describe how to get to your home.

Fill in all required blanks for everyone who lives with you either permanently or temporarily. You must list yourself first, then your spouse and children, including unborn children, then other adults and children. (Individuals under age 22 must list their parents if living in the same home with their parents.) If you are only applying for SNAP benefits, please list yourself, your spouse, children under age 22, and any others who purchase and prepare meals with you.

M - required for Medicaid/Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and Refugee Medical Assistance, S - required for SNAP, or**C - required for Cash Assistance.**

Name (Last, First, Middle)	Relation- ship To You	Requesting Yes/No			Birth date	(M, T) Place of Birth	(M, T) Sex	Social Security Number	(M, T) Marital Status	U.S. Citizen Yes/No
		MSP Medicaid/ SNAP	SNAP	CASH						
1.	SELF									
2.										
3.										
6.										

(S) SNAP Expedited Service Questions

What is the total income before deductions your household has received or expects to receive this month?

If zero, enter zero. \$ _____

How much do the members of your household have in cash and savings? (Give your best estimate)

If zero, enter zero. \$ _____

How much is your monthly rent/mortgage?

If zero, enter zero. \$ _____

How much are your current monthly utilities?

If zero, enter zero. \$ _____

Is anyone in your household a migrant or seasonal farm worker? ____ Yes ____ No

County Use

Income less than \$150 and cash and savings no more than \$100? ____ Yes ____ No

(If yes, expedite)

Combined income and resources less than rent/mortgage and utilities? ____ Yes ____ No

(If yes, expedite)

Destitute migrant/seasonal farm worker with liquid resources not exceeding \$100? ____ Yes ____ No

(If yes, expedite)

Screened for expedited services: ____ Yes ____ No

Eligible for expedited services: ____ Yes ____ No

____ Worker Initial

Penalty Warning: I swear or affirm that the statements made on this application are true or correct.**X**

Signature or Mark of Applicant (or legal guardian/authorized representative).

Date

Witness to Mark (necessary only if applicant cannot sign full name)

Date

INTERVIEW:

1. After your application is filed, you will be notified of the time and date of your interview (if needed). **An interview is not required, but is recommended for Medicaid. Complete as much of the application as you can.** A worker will help you with any unanswered questions at the interview. If you do not have all necessary information, this could delay a decision on your application.
2. For SNAP benefits, TANF cash assistance and Refugee programs, if you cannot keep your appointment (if needed), **you must schedule another appointment within 30 days of the application date.** If you do not schedule another appointment, your application will be denied.
3. If you are not able to appear for an interview or you are unable to find someone to represent you, call your County Office of Public Assistance to schedule a home visit or phone interview.

TO GET SNAP BENEFITS WITHIN 7 DAYS (EXPEDITED SERVICE): You may be entitled to expedited services if your income and resources are not enough to cover your monthly rent/mortgage and utilities, or you have very little income or resources, or your household includes a migrant or seasonal farm worker.

1. Complete the application and provide proof of identity of the person listed as number 1 on the first page. If an authorized representative applies for the household, the identity of the person listed as number 1 on the first page and the authorized representative must be verified.
2. If you do not have time to complete this form now, complete the front page and turn it in now. This will ensure your benefits start from today if you are eligible for SNAP benefits.
3. You must complete all questions not marked with a specific code and all questions marked with the letter S.
4. If you are eligible for expedited service, you will receive SNAP benefits for this month even if you cannot provide all the proof needed at this time.
5. If you feel you are eligible for expedited services but your worker says you are not, you may ask for an administrative review or may request a fair hearing either orally or in writing.
6. If you are not eligible for expedited service, your application will be processed within 30 days following the date the signed application was received.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. You have the right to file an application on the same day you contact us. You may either leave the entire application or completed front page or mail it to your County Office of Public Assistance.
2. You do not have to be interviewed or have a scheduled appointment before filing the application.
3. Your application will be processed within 30 days for SNAP benefits and Cash Assistance, and 45 days for Medicaid and Refugee Medical Assistance from the date of application except in unusual circumstances as defined by regulation.
4. Applicants soon to be released from an institution may make application for SNAP benefits prior to their release. The application filing date for pre-release applicants is the date of release from the institution.
5. **For SNAP benefits, do not:**
 - ☐ trade or sell SNAP benefits;
 - ☐ use SNAP benefits to get ineligible items such as alcoholic drinks, tobacco, or pay on credit accounts; or
 - ☐ use someone else's SNAP benefits for your household or let someone use your benefits.
6. For SNAP and RCA benefits you will be required to repay any benefits for which you aren't eligible, including errors caused by this agency. You will be required to repay any TANF, RMA and/or Medicaid, benefits that you aren't eligible to receive for any reason other than this agency's error.
7. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status*, political beliefs, religion or disability. (*Marital status is protected under State Law.)
To file a complaint of discrimination, contact USDA or HHS. For SNAP write USDA, Director, Office for Civil Rights, Room 326-W, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). For Medicaid and Cash Assistance write HHS Director, Office for Civil Rights, Room 506-F, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington D.C. 20201 or call (202) 619-0403 (voice) or (202) 619-3257 (TDD). USDA and HHS are equal opportunity providers and employers.

SNAP WORK REQUIREMENTS:

1. Individuals who are physically and mentally fit and between the ages of **16 and 60** shall be **ineligible** if they: (1) refuse without good cause to provide sufficient information to allow a determination of their employment status or job availability; (2) voluntarily and without good cause quit a job; or (3) voluntarily and without good cause reduce their work effort (and after the reduction, are working less than 30 hours a week).
2. Individuals who reside in a county with a SNAP Employment and Training Program may attend this program.
3. Cash Assistance work requirements do not apply to SNAP.

TIME LIMITED BENEFITS:

1. The household may not be eligible for TANF cash assistance benefits if a member of the household has received 60 months of TANF cash assistance benefits in any state. TANF time limits do not apply to Medicaid, SNAP benefits or Refugee programs.
2. An individual who is an able bodied adult without dependents may not be eligible for SNAP benefits if they have received 3 months of SNAP benefits in a 36-month period, unless they meet an exemption, or meet the work requirement.
3. Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance are only available to eligible refugees for 8 months from date of entry or from the date their asylee status was granted. However, Refugee Social Services, such as employment and training assistance, could extend up to five years from date of entry/ date asylee status was granted, depending on federal funding. This application form is not required to apply for Refugee Social Services. For more information about the Refugee Social Service Program, please ask your Office of Public Assistance Case Manager.

PENALTIES: SNAP AND TANF CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

1. It is unlawful for you to knowingly make false statements, misrepresent facts, or conceal information to obtain benefits.
2. Individuals who knowingly and intentionally break a rule can be prosecuted and fined. Under SNAP, the fine may be up to \$250,000 or you may be imprisoned up to 20 years, or both. Individuals are also subject to prosecution under other applicable federal laws. Individuals may also be barred for an additional 18 months if court ordered.
3. Any household member who knowingly and intentionally breaks a SNAP or TANF cash assistance rule can be barred from the program for one year for the first violation; for two years for the second violation; and permanently disqualified after the third violation.
4. Any SNAP recipient who has been found guilty in a federal, state or local court of trading SNAP benefits for controlled substances (illegal drugs or certain drugs for which a doctor's prescription is required) will be disqualified from participation for two years for the first offense and permanently for the second offense.
5. Any SNAP recipient who has been found guilty in a federal, state or local court of trading SNAP benefits for firearms, ammunition, or explosives will be permanently disqualified from participation upon the first occasion of such violation.
6. An individual shall be permanently disqualified from SNAP if he/she is convicted of trafficking SNAP benefits of \$500 or more.
7. An individual shall be ineligible to participate in SNAP for ten years if he/she is found to have made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect to identity and/or residence in order to receive multiple benefits simultaneously.
8. For TANF cash assistance, an individual shall be ineligible to participate in the TANF cash assistance program for 10 years if he/she is found to have made a fraudulent statement or representation with respect to identity and/or residence in order to receive multiple benefits simultaneously.

One Month Snapshots of Eligibility Caseload by County
October 2007 and October 2008

County	SNAP 2007	SNAP 2008	Medicaid 2007	Medicaid 2008	TANF 2007	TANF 2008
BEAVERHEAD	269	259	453	452	24	28
BIGHORN	1,077	1,046	1,356	1,387	351	338
BLAINE	393	455	660	654	6	5
BROADWATER	109	144	201	219	9	10
CARBON	175	170	369	345	7	9
CARTER	7	6	32	25	0	0
CASCADE	3,111	3,159	4,857	5,081	250	268
CHOUTEAU	99	96	184	189	6	4
CUSTER	441	420	838	820	4	10
DANIELS	28	26	78	79	2	1
DAWSON	201	199	388	382	7	11
DEERLODGE	469	447	721	730	29	24
FALLON	35	34	104	113	3	3
FERGUS	260	269	638	618	13	11
FLATHEAD	2,382	2,735	4,380	4,602	120	152
GALLATIN	1,020	1,179	1,991	2,100	67	84
GARFIELD	14	13	44	40	0	1
GLACIER	1,835	1,788	1,704	1,680	284	255
GOLDEN VALLEY	20	23	42	31	1	0
GRANITE	69	74	135	135	2	2
HILL	884	925	1,429	1,474	8	12
JEFFERSON	185	198	422	444	13	13
JUDITH BASIN	28	31	63	67	2	2
LAKE	1,386	1,531	2,242	2,311	71	96
LEWIS & CLARK	1,903	2,008	3,281	3,242	175	181
LIBERTY	22	23	51	47	3	2
LINCOLN	1,120	1,148	1,397	1,390	55	48
MADISON	89	79	176	181	6	5
MCCONE	9	9	47	41	1	1
MEAGHER	54	65	100	108	1	2
MINERAL	309	322	386	374	9	18
MISSOULA	4,290	4,590	5,788	5,939	211	235
MUSSELSHELL	179	184	309	320	12	10
PARK	428	462	661	645	21	20
PETROLEUM	6	3	9	7	0	1
PHILLIPS	149	153	309	340	4	2
PONDERA	292	316	447	458	32	41
POWDER RIVER	12	12	54	49	0	1
POWELL	207	216	340	319	7	9
PRAIRIE	18	21	37	39	0	0
RAVALLI	1,312	1,413	1,953	2,006	59	63
RICHLAND	162	175	403	412	5	4
ROOSEVELT	1,261	1,207	1,388	1,432	417	356
ROSEBUD	629	614	854	829	206	204
SANDERS	459	517	717	745	26	27
SHERIDAN	71	68	158	151	6	9
SILVER BOW	1,669	1,815	2,579	2,632	140	145
STILLWATER	146	148	324	320	10	7
SWEET GRASS	41	39	95	86	1	2
TETON	123	119	226	233	5	6
TOOLE	153	138	255	243	11	16
TREASURE	9	10	14	23	0	1
VALLEY	312	293	476	491	33	25
WHEATLAND	57	57	97	90	1	2
WIBAUX	17	16	45	42	0	0
YELLOWSTONE	4,651	4,854	7,896	8,049	422	481
Total	34,656	36,321	54,203	55,261	3,158	3,263

Human and Community Services Division Public Assistance Bureau

The Public Assistance Bureau centrally administers Montana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the cash assistance program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. The Bureau also provides eligibility services for the Medicaid program. Eligibility determination services for all three programs are provided by field staff statewide in local Office of Public Assistance offices and regularly scheduled outreach to other counties.

In addition, the Bureau contracts for and administers the provision of TANF work participation activities, SNAP employment and training activities, and SNAP nutrition education services.